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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST: SECOND QUARTER 2001

Nonfarm wage and salary employment expanded by 48,200 in the Southeast¹ during the second quarter of 2001, according to Janet S. Rankin, regional commissioner for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in Atlanta. Over the same period, total U.S. wage and salary employment fell by 75,700. (See table 1.)

The regional quarterly employment level of 24,857,100 (seasonally adjusted) rose by 0.2 percent over the quarter, while national employment declined by 0.1 percent. Second quarter employment growth in the Southeast was slightly more than half of the growth recorded in the first quarter. Manufacturing employment continued to decline, losing 42,900 jobs after a similar decline in the first quarter. Another 7,600 jobs were lost in construction. These losses were offset, however, by moderate growth in other industries. Southeast service industries added 54,000 jobs, more than twice the amount of service jobs gained nationally. Job growth in the Southeast during the second quarter was primarily in Florida, which gained 56,900 jobs, offsetting losses in Alabama, Kentucky, and South Carolina. Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee also recorded small job gains over the quarter. North Carolina's nonfarm employment was virtually unchanged in the second quarter.

Over the first half of 2001, the Southeast added 154,000 jobs, less than half of the amount added over the same period a year ago. The Southeast, however, has maintained a higher job growth rate than the nation so far this year. Over a third of the jobs added nationally in 2001 were in the Southeast, with Florida accounting for over three-fourth's of the region's net job growth and over a quarter of the jobs gained nationally. At the same time, Alabama and Mississippi have lost 9,400 and 9,700 jobs, respectively. In the region, manufacturing has lost 78,600 jobs in the first half of 2001, far exceeding the losses incurred in manufacturing in all of 2000. (See table 2.)

Over the year, southeastern employment grew by 361,100 jobs, or 1.5 percent, while nationally, employment grew at a slower pace of 0.5 percent. The service industry contributed much of the job growth in the Southeast, adding 280,800 new jobs. Manufacturing was the only industry sector to contract over the year, dropping 124,800 jobs (-3.4 percent) since the same time a year ago. With a growth rate of 3.2 percent, Florida sustained the strongest job growth in the region. Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee also outpaced the national growth rate. Alabama and Mississippi were the only two southeastern states that lost jobs over the year.

¹ The Southeast includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Technical Note

All estimates in this release are adjusted to first quarter 2000 benchmark levels. Data relate to all full-time and part-time employment in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee and were compiled by state employment security agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual. A brief technical description of statistics based on establishment records is presented in the explanatory notes of Employment and Earnings, a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment data from the CES program are available at <http://www.bls.gov/790home.htm>. Information in this release are available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Nonfarm employment in the Southeast by major industry division and U.S. total, seasonally adjusted
(numbers in thousands)**

Industry	Employment				1st Qtr. 2001 - 2nd Qtr. 2001		2nd Qtr. 2000 - 2nd Qtr. 2001	
	2nd Qtr. 2000	4th Qtr 2000	1st Qtr. 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
United States								
Total	131853.7	132263.7	132559.0	132483.3	-75.7	-0.1	629.6	0.5
Construction	6659.0	6776.7	6878.3	6865.7	-12.6	-0.2	206.7	3.1
Manufacturing	18510.3	18378.3	18188.3	17881.7	-306.6	-1.7	-628.6	-3.4
Transportation and public utilities	7002.7	7092.3	7118.7	7122.3	3.6	0.1	119.6	1.7
Trade	30295.3	30459.3	30513.7	30583.3	69.6	0.2	288.0	1.0
Wholesale trade	7008.3	7065.7	7065.7	7037.7	-28.0	-0.4	29.4	0.4
Retail trade	23287.0	23393.7	23448.0	23545.7	97.7	0.4	258.7	1.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	7549.7	7575.3	7607.0	7633.7	26.7	0.4	84.0	1.1
Services	40359.0	40837.7	41025.7	41052.0	26.3	0.1	693.0	1.7
Government	20936.3	20595.0	20673.3	20781.7	108.4	0.5	-154.6	-0.7
Southeast								
Total	24496.0	24714.3	24808.9	24857.1	48.2	0.2	361.1	1.5
Construction	1313.8	1332.0	1352.3	1344.7	-7.6	-0.6	30.9	2.4
Manufacturing	3640.9	3601.2	3559.0	3516.1	-42.9	-1.2	-124.8	-3.4
Transportation and public utilities	1339.7	1351.2	1360.3	1361.7	1.4	0.1	22.0	1.6
Trade	5850.5	5910.5	5925.0	5952.6	27.6	0.5	102.1	1.7
Wholesale trade	1304.5	1312.9	1318.8	1326.6	7.8	0.6	22.1	1.7
Retail trade	4546.0	4597.6	4606.2	4626.1	19.9	0.4	80.1	1.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	1260.8	1265.1	1268.1	1274.2	6.1	0.5	13.4	1.1
Services	7184.5	7343.0	7411.3	7465.3	54.0	0.7	280.8	3.9
Government	3849.6	3855.2	3876.2	3885.4	9.2	0.2	35.8	0.9
Nonfarm employment by State								
Nonfarm employment by State	Employment				1st Qtr. 2001 - 2nd Qtr. 2001		2nd Qtr. 2000 - 2nd Qtr. 2001	
	2nd Qtr. 2000	4th Qtr 2000	1st Qtr. 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
Alabama	1931.8	1937.4	1935.0	1922.1	-12.9	-0.7	-9.7	-0.5
Florida	7058.2	7166.5	7226.1	7283.0	56.9	0.8	224.8	3.2
Georgia	3977.5	4016.1	4041.5	4047.0	5.5	0.1	69.5	1.7
Kentucky	1819.7	1830.3	1842.5	1836.1	-6.4	-0.3	16.4	0.9
Mississippi	1159.2	1153.2	1146.1	1147.7	1.6	0.1	-11.5	-1.0
North Carolina	3941.0	3968.6	3974.2	3974.1	-0.1	0.0	33.1	0.8
South Carolina	1875.3	1891.6	1892.9	1889.3	-3.6	-0.2	14.0	0.7
Tennessee	2733.3	2750.6	2750.6	2757.8	7.2	0.3	24.5	0.9

Table 2. Nonfarm employment in the Southeast by major industry division and U.S. total, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Industry	Employment			2nd half 2000 - 1st half 2001		1st half 2000 - 1st half 2001	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
United States							
Total	131418.8	132095.5	132521.2	425.7	0.3	1102.4	0.8
Construction	6662.0	6739.2	6872.0	132.8	2.0	210.0	3.2
Manufacturing	18507.2	18432.5	18035.0	-397.5	-2.2	-472.2	-2.6
Transportation and public utilities	6983.3	7056.0	7120.5	64.5	0.9	137.2	2.0
Trade	30239.3	30419.5	30548.5	129.0	0.4	309.2	1.0
Wholesale trade	6994.5	7051.0	7051.7	0.7	0.0	57.2	0.8
Retail trade	23244.8	23368.5	23496.8	128.3	0.5	252.0	1.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	7560.7	7561.2	7620.3	59.1	0.8	59.6	0.8
Services	40196.2	40726.2	41038.8	312.6	0.8	842.6	2.1
Government	20732.2	20614.5	20727.5	113.0	0.5	-4.7	0.0
Southeast							
Total	24424.4	24679.0	24833.0	154.0	0.6	408.6	1.7
Construction	1313.1	1329.7	1348.5	18.8	1.4	35.4	2.7
Manufacturing	3645.1	3616.2	3537.6	-78.6	-2.2	-107.5	-2.9
Transportation and public utilities	1335.2	1348.5	1361.0	12.5	0.9	25.8	1.9
Trade	5837.4	5899.4	5938.8	39.4	0.7	101.4	1.7
Wholesale trade	1300.9	1309.6	1322.7	13.1	1.0	21.8	1.7
Retail trade	4536.5	4589.7	4616.1	26.4	0.6	79.6	1.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	1257.9	1264.5	1271.2	6.7	0.5	13.3	1.1
Services	7155.9	7306.7	7438.3	131.6	1.8	282.4	3.9
Government	3822.9	3837.3	3838.0	0.7	0.0	15.1	0.4
Nonfarm employment by State							
Nonfarm employment by State	Employment			2nd half 2000 - 1st half 2001		1st half 2000 - 1st half 2001	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
Alabama	1931.2	1937.9	1928.5	-9.4	-0.5	-2.7	-0.1
Florida	7017.5	7133.4	7254.6	121.2	1.7	237.1	3.4
Georgia	3969.5	4014.4	4044.3	29.9	0.7	74.8	1.9
Kentucky	1822.8	1828.0	1839.3	11.3	0.6	16.5	0.9
Mississippi	1158.7	1156.6	1146.9	-9.7	-0.8	-11.8	-1.0
North Carolina	3926.9	3972.1	3974.1	2.0	0.1	47.2	1.2
South Carolina	1868.5	1886.7	1891.1	4.4	0.2	22.6	1.2
Tennessee	2729.4	2750.0	2754.2	4.2	0.2	24.8	0.9